

# Artrageous WOMAN

Writings & Works of Elaine Mayers Salkaln



The Supreme Court's opinion overturning *Roe vs. Wade* doesn't surprise my mother —artist Elaine Mayers Salkaln. At 91 years old, she has spent a lifetime as an artistic champion of the female struggle against male dominance.

“It's the same old story—men in power suppressing the rights of women. The Supreme is mostly men, plus one woman religiously biased against the woman's right to choose and who was nominated to the court by very powerful men. It goes back to the beginning of most religions where males always dominated and still dominate,” She says.



Elaine was married to the trial lawyer, Don Foucar Salkaln, for 67 years—till his recent passing. Here they sit in Elaine's favorite Harry Bertorio Knoll chairs.

Born 1932 in Lakewood, New Jersey, Elaine grew up immersed in the arts as a dancer, painter, sculptor, and later interior designer. Her first marriage ended in divorce before she was 19 years old and left her as a single mom with a son, Jamie. Her second marriage, at 21 years old, was to Don Foucar Salkaln and lasted sixty-two years, and like most unions, both rocky and blissful. It was at a time when women were expected to be housewives, and nothing more. Yet, there was no stopping Elaine from creativity.

An artist's journey walks a tightrope of vulnerability. There's no safety net for discouraging words, or even worse, a husband that takes your artwork from the basement, and then flings it, like an olympian throws a javelin, across the driveway and down into the woods. It was the late 1960's and she thought of herself as a caged artist. Without her husbands knowledge, Elaine rented an art studio in town and it was there that she painted, and where her spirit and artworks were safe. She earned a living writing about people and their houses and photographing them for *Newsday*, the *Daily News*, and the *New York Times*, among other publications.

Her artwork, who her husband later embraced, has been displayed across Long Island, and the country.

—Her son, Donathan



Elaine at a recent exhibition of the Art League of Long Island.